

## AUGUST STRICK.

APRIL 12, 1904.—Ordered to be printed.

Mr. BALL, from the Committee on Pensions, submitted the following

### REPORT.

[To accompany H. R. 4369.]

The Committee on Pensions, to whom was referred the bill (H. R. 4369) granting an increase of pension to August Strick, have examined the same and report:

The report of the Committee on Invalid Pensions of the House of Representatives, hereto appended, is adopted and the passage of the bill is recommended.

The House report is as follows:

Mr. Strick, now 84 years of age, served as a private in Battery I, Fifth Regiment U. S. Artillery, from March 2, 1862, to March 6, 1865, when honorably discharged.

He is now pensioned under the act of June 27, 1890, at \$12 per month for total disability, the result of complete right inguinal hernia and senile debility.

A claim under the general law, filed in 1884, and based upon a gunshot wound of the right side of back and head, alleged to have been received at Gettysburg in July, 1863, and upon diarrhea, rheumatism, kidney disease, headache, and loss of memory, was rejected in June, 1896, upon the ground that a pensionable disability from these causes had not existed since the filing of the claim.

The claimant filed no proof as to the origin or continuance of the alleged disabilities, but filed medical testimony as to treatment since about 1890 for diarrhea, acute rheumatism, etc.; that these disabilities confined him to his bed sometimes for two or three weeks at a time, etc.

When last examined, in April, 1896, the board of surgeons rated him \$12 for rheumatism, \$6 for deafness, and \$17 for debility.

Medical testimony filed with your committee shows that the beneficiary is in a very feeble condition, afflicted with subacute articular and muscular rheumatism, complete deafness in the right ear of long standing, a rupture of the right side, and weak eyes; that this condition makes him almost entirely helpless, especially so during the frequent occurrence of the swelling of both feet, ankles, and knees due to the articular and muscular rheumatism, and that his helplessness is accentuated by means of extreme age.

Other proof filed with your committee shows that the beneficiary has been the recipient of help from the G. A. R. relief committee for the past eight years, he being entirely dependent upon his pension of \$12 per month.

Considering the soldier's honorable services of three years, his great age (84 years), and helplessness, the relief sought for in the bill is just and proper.

The passage of the bill is therefore recommended.